

Protecting & Rehabilitating for HEALTHIER LAKES

A PUBLICATION FROM AMERY LAKES
PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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If you have issues or concerns,
please join us at one of our
scheduled meetings.

Clean Boats/ Clean Waters...

KEEPING OUT INVASIVE SPECIES



This year the Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District instituted a boat landing monitoring program following the Clean Boats/Clean Waters model. A staff about six area high school students work in pairs at the landings on the lakes. The Amery Lake District is working in a partnership with the Apple River Flowage District, so the students split time between Amery Lakes and Apple River Flowage.

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program was established in Wisconsin to reduce the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) between lakes through a volunteer boat inspection procedure and dissemination of information about AIS.

When a boat comes to launch, the monitoring crew asks a few questions about the boating history and if they are informed about aquatic invasive species. They then offer to inspect the boat for any AIS plants as well as remind them to have released any live well water and/or bilge water before entering the lake. When the boats are taken out of the lake, the monitors offer to inspect again before the boaters leave the lake.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before launching and before leaving **YOU MUST:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law



*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."

Clean Boats/Clean Waters...

Keeping Out Invasive Species (cont'd)



Monitoring Statistics (from Wisconsin DNR website)

- 103,790 watercraft inspected in 2011
- 223,407 boaters contacted in 2011
- 92% of boaters aware of invasive species law
- 96% of boaters inspect & remove plants
- 87% of boaters dispose of bait
- 97% of boaters drain boat/equipment
- 94% of boaters drain fish/live well

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters inspectors follow these guidelines (from UW-Extension):

Transport Laws for Boaters and Anglers

- INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway).
- DRAIN all water from boats, motors, and equipment.
- NEVER MOVE live fish away from a water body.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.*

*You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish were added to their container.

Bait Laws for Boaters and Anglers

The following new laws apply to all anglers and boaters in Wisconsin

- You must drain all water from boats, containers, and fishing equipment when leaving any state waters, banks or shores, or entering Wisconsin over land.
 - This does not apply to any drinking water or up to two gallons of water being used to hold minnows that can be legally transported.
- You may not transport any live fish or live fish eggs away from any state waters. There is an exception for minnows obtained from a Wisconsin bait dealer. These minnows may be transported away live and used again:
 - on the same water, or
 - on any other waters if no lake or river water or other fish were added to their container.

- You may not use dead fish, fish eggs, or fish parts as bait. There are three exceptions:
 - you may use dead fish, fish eggs, or fish parts as bait on any waters if they were preserved by a method that does not require freezing or refrigeration, or
 - you may use unpreserved or just frozen dead fish, fish eggs or fish parts as bait on the water from which they were collected or on Lake Michigan or Green Bay (and connecting waters upstream to the first barrier impassible to fish), or
 - you may use live minnows that die during a fishing trip during that fishing trip (they may not be used on later trips unless you meet the two conditions above).
- You may not possess or use minnows for bait that are obtained outside of Wisconsin. This does not apply if the minnows were imported under a Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) permit, or if they were obtained from Iowa or Minnesota and are being used only "between the tracks" on the Mississippi River.

Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

ANNUAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
7:00 PM**

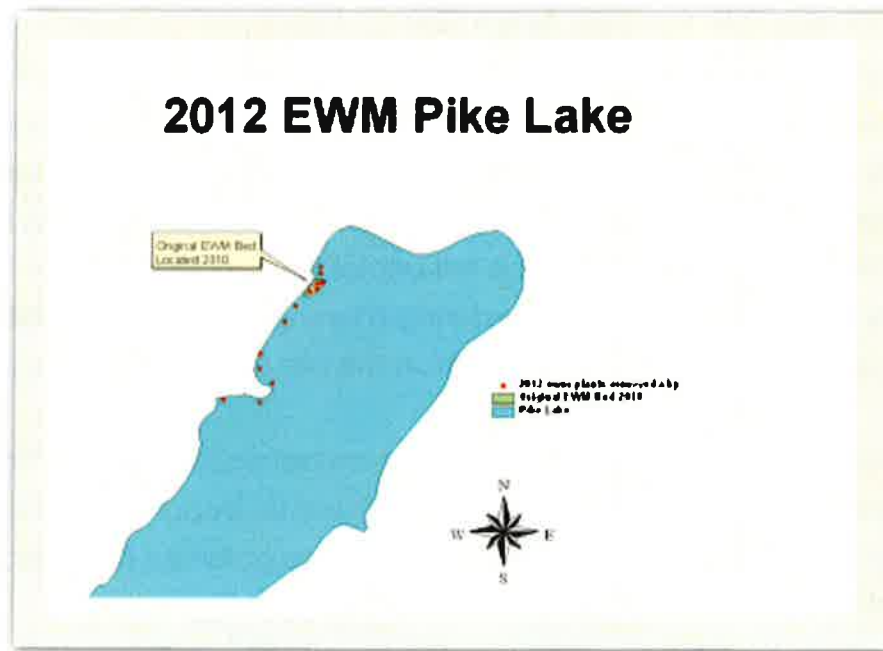
**AMERY HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER (LIBRARY)**

Lakes District residents are invited to attend the annual meeting and the quarterly meetings. Quarterly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, and August in the Amery High School Media Center beginning at 6:30 pm.

Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District (the District) annual meeting will be on September 11, 2012. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and will be held in the Amery High School Media Center (library). Lake District residents are invited to attend this meeting and the quarterly meetings which are normally held on the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, and August in the Amery High School Media Center. The starting time for those meetings is 6:30 p.m.

Although the agenda for the annual meeting has not been finalized at this time, old business normally includes a summary of the District's past year activities/ accomplishments and the election of at least one board member. New business will include planned activities and a budget for the coming year. The budget normally contains funds for general operations of the District such as boat launch and dock maintenance, portable toilets at the landings, lake water quality analysis, plant management, insurance, compensation, fisheries management (primarily walleye stocking in North Twin Lake and Pike Lake), association dues, and grant match funds as needed. The District has taxing authority for properties within the Lake District boundary. The board has not had to place a tax on District resident's annual property tax bill for the last four years. The board will determine at this meeting if it will have to levy a tax on District residents to fund activities for the coming year. The public is welcome to attend the annual meeting.

2012 EWM Pike Lake



2012 PIKE LAKE EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (EWM) UPDATE

by Steve Schieffer

Eurasian water milfoil was first discovered in Pike Lake in 2010. The original bed of this aquatic invasive plant was found north of Shoreview. Over the past year, the growth of Eurasian water milfoil in Pike Lake has expanded somewhat. This is not a surprise and is not alarming to us because these additional areas had only widely scattered plants.

Eurasian water milfoil has a tendency to grow and spread quickly, eventually choking out native plants. In Pike Lake

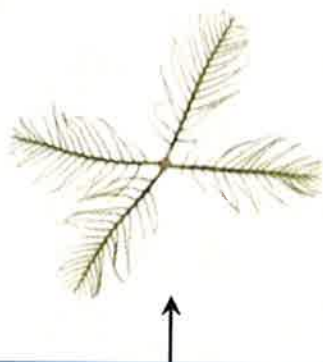
we have been able to keep this spreading to a minimum. Herbicide was used to treat the original bed. Since that time, we have hand pulled plants while diving to remove the plants. The red dots on the map above show locations where plants or small clumps of plants were located and removed by divers. As a result, the plant is not taking over the lake. Although EWM is growing in more locations, the density remains extremely low.

Although this is good news, diligence in locating and removing EWM is paramount

so it doesn't spread in Pike Lake and into North Twin and South Twin. It is important that all lake users pay particular attention to EWM. If you locate suspected plants in areas other than shown on the map, contact a Lake District board member or the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department. Identification information is found in this newsletter. There is a large amount of the native northern milfoil in all three of the lakes. If you are uncertain if you have found northern milfoil or Eurasian milfoil, we would be more than happy to check the area.

Eurasian water milfoil is a highly invasive plant that can grow extremely quickly, taking over areas by competing with the more desirable native plants.

Eurasian water milfoil (*myriophyllum spicatum*)



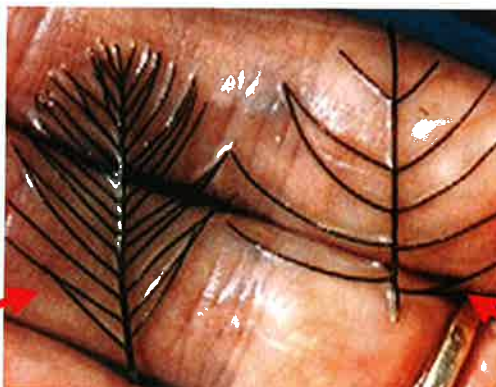
NOTE: more than 12 pairs of leaflets

Eurasian water milfoil...note number of leaflets

Northern water milfoil (*myriophyllum sibiricum* - native)



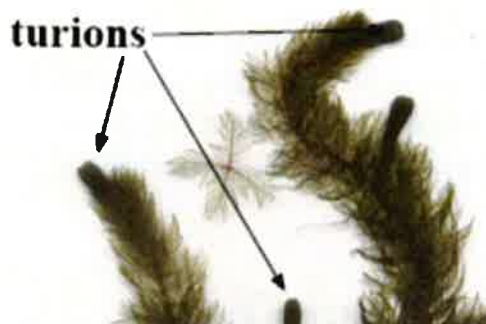
NOTE: Usually 12 or fewer pairs of leaflets



Northern water milfoil...note number of leaflets



Early summer



Late summer

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

	EWM	Native
Leaflet pairs	more than 12	less than 12
Appearance	Wispy , feathers	more stout
Winter buds (turions)	none	often present (leaves in early summer/buds later)

Department of Natural Resources Grants

Aid Lake District Work

The City of Amery and Amery Lakes District are nearly finished with the work outlined in two large projects funded by Department of Natural Resources grants. These grants provided substantial funding to carry out important projects to protect Amery Lakes' water quality and initiated stormwater projects for the city. Amery Lakes District funds and city staff time matched these state grants. A summary of each grant follows.

Lake Protection Grant

\$200,000 grant, \$67,000 match

Expires December 31, 2012

Grant Tasks

- Flagpole Park engineering, pond excavation, and native plantings
- Porous concrete in alley behind the Village Pizzeria
- Numerous rain gardens designed and installed at private residences in Amery Lakes watersheds
- Free rain barrels distributed to Amery and Lake District residents
- Educational information including brochures, newsletters, and web site updates

Stormwater Planning Grant

\$45,150 grant, \$20,350 match

Grant project completed

Grant Tasks

- Developed City of Amery Stormwater Management Plan
- Updated city Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance
- Investigated feasibility of various alternatives for Flagpole Park
- Explored funding for stormwater management.

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AMERY LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Schieffer, Chairman
715.268.7565

Jon R. Bergquist, Treasurer
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Bruce DeLong, Secretary
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Jeanne Hancock, Director
715.268.6068

Jeremy Williamson, Director
715.268.5092

Kay Erickson,
Amery City Council Representative
715.268.2852

Warren Nelson,
Polk County Board Representative
715.268.6968

2012 Fisheries Management Activities in Pike Lake and North Twin Lake

by Jon Bergquist



"...the current plan calls for stocking 3,000 walleyes in North Twin Lake and a similar number of walleye fingerlings in Pike Lake"

Under a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources, the Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District stocked 3,000 6 to 8 inch walleye fingerlings into North Twin Lake and a similar number into Pike Lake on October 4, 2011. The walleye fingerlings were purchased by the Amery Lakes District. The walleyes are expected to grow to legal size fish within 3 years. This is the 5th consecutive year that the Lakes District has purchased and stocked 6 to 8 inch walleye fingerlings into the two lakes under a DNR permit. Anglers catching these sublegal walleyes over the next year are urged to handle and release the fish with great care in order to reduce mortality rates.

The Amery Lakes District, at its annual meeting in September 2011, approved obtaining a stocking permit for fall of 2012 and approved funding to purchase 6,000 6 to 8 inch walleye fingerlings for stocking the fall of 2012. The District has received

the required fish stocking permits from the Department of Natural Resources and has arranged to obtain the large fingerlings from a private fish hatchery located here in Wisconsin. The current plans call for stocking 3,000 walleye fingerlings in the 6 to 8 inch size range in North Twin Lake and a similar number of walleyes fingerlings in Pike Lake.

In 2010, the Lakes District Board developed and approved a Fisheries Management Plan for the three lakes. The plan reviews the lakes' sizes and depths, basic water quality, fish species present, aquatic plant species present, the percent of developed versus undeveloped shoreline in each lake, recent stocking history, fishing activity on the lakes, and possible fisheries management activities for future consideration. A copy of that report can be obtained by contacting Board Member, Jon R. Bergquist at 715.268.5584.



Zebra MUSSELS

Zebra mussels are aquatic invasive mussels with a D-shaped shell with alternating black and white stripes. Since they are able to attach to hard surfaces, zebra mussels can clog water intakes and damage equipment such as boat motors. When water bodies are infested with zebra mussels their shorelines become littered with sharp shells, impeding human recreational opportunities. Additionally, they damage ecosystems by harming fisheries and smothering native mussels, snails, and crayfish.

Zebra mussels arrived in the Great Lakes in the late 1980's from contaminated ballast water. Since that time they have expanded in range in Minnesota and Wisconsin including the St. Croix River and the seven county Twin Cities metro area.

Zebra mussels have not been found in Polk County. However, in 2010 they were discovered in Bass Lake in St. Croix County. In response to this discovery in 2011, an extensive monitoring program was implemented for zebra mussels in Polk County lakes north of Bass Lake. Vertical and horizontal plankton tows were taken and analyzed for aquatic invasive species. Fortunately, these samples yielded no zebra mussel veligers (larvae). Additionally, spiny water fleas were not found in any of the lakes sampled.

We are fortunate that zebra mussels have not been found in Polk County lakes yet. However, our lakes are still very susceptible, so remember to inspect your boat, remove any vegetation, animals, or sediment, and drain the live well before leaving or entering a lake.

What's happening on YOUR lake?

Protecting & Rehabilitating for

HEALTHIER LAKES

AMERY LAKES PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

754 107th Street
Amery, WI 54001

PRSRT
Standard Mail
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Amery, WI
Permit # 131

A note FROM THE CHAIR

We hope that this annual newsletter is helpful and informative. This has been another active year for the Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District. Many of the events and projects and pertinent information about our lakes are described in this newsletter. One of the greatest concerns for all area lakes is the introduction of new invasive species. As you may know, we have two invasive species in Amery Lakes, curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil (in Pike Lake only). There are many other species out there (and many are not plants) that we need to avoid introducing into our lakes.

To combat such an introduction, we have started monitoring boat landings. We have hired some wonderful student monitors to

work at the boat landings on the weekends. These monitors inspect the boats before and after they are launched, and also inform the boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to get out and enjoy the lakes this year. In doing so, you may have noticed a large amount of aquatic plant growth in the lakes. The lakes in Amery naturally have a fairly extensive amount of plant growth since they are macrophyte-dominated lakes. This plant dominance results in the excess nutrients getting absorbed by aquatic plants rather than algae. The result is clearer lakes, but more "weedy" lakes. North Twin, Pike Lake, and South Twin Lake are some of the clearest lakes in Polk County, we just need to put up with some extra weed cover to have such nice water.



As in the past, we encourage you to attend our quarterly meetings (second Tuesday in Feb, April, June and August) and our annual meeting on the second Tuesday in September. Your input, questions, and concerns are important to us. If you can't make a meeting but have a question or concern, feel free to contact one of us using the contact information provided in this newsletter.

Steve Schieffer
Amery Lakes P&R District Chair

Protecting & Rehabilitating for HEALTHIER LAKES

A PUBLICATION FROM AMERY LAKES
PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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If you have issues or
concerns, please join us
at one of our scheduled
meetings.



CITY OF AMERY COMPLETES LAKE PROTECTION GRANT PROJECT

By Jon Bergquist

The City of Amery completed a Lake Protection Grant project at the end of 2012. It began with a Lake District promise of matching funds, with the City of Amery agreeing to apply for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant in the fall of 2006. At the end of the project, the City had invested about \$193,000 of grant funds and \$64,150 of Lake District matching funds into projects and activities to improve the water quality of Pike, North Twin, and South Twin Lakes.

The City and Lake District cooperated in a similar manner to obtain a Stormwater Management Planning Grant to develop a stormwater management plan for

the City of Amery. This project was completed in 2009.

The Lake Protection Grant funded the design and construction of the stormwater wetlands located in Flagpole Park. The project included relocating some major culverts so that the stormwater they carried now empties into the constructed ponds where nutrients, sediment, and trash can settle out before the water is discharged into North Twin Lake. Before the rerouting of stormwater drainage and stormwater wetland construction, it was not uncommon after significant rainfall events to see a muddy water plume extending well out

Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

7:00 PM
AMERY HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER (LIBRARY)

Lakes District residents are invited to attend the annual meeting and quarterly meetings. Quarterly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, and August in the Amery High School Media Center beginning at 6:30 pm.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Old Business

Summary of prior year activities/accomplishments
Election of one board member

New Business

Activities for coming year
Next fiscal year budget
Budget

- Expenses
 - General operations (boat launch, dock maintenance, portable toilets)
 - Lake water quality analysis
 - Plant management
 - Insurance
 - Compensation
 - Fisheries management (walleye stocking)
 - Grant match
 - Association dues
 - Income

The District has taxing authority for properties within the Lake District boundaries. However, lake district taxes have not been levied for the last 5 years. The District will determine at this meeting if it will need to levy a tax on District properties to fund District activities for the coming year.



AMERY LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Schieffer, Chairman
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Polk County Board Representative
715.268.6968

A note FROM THE CHAIR

Steve Schieffer, Chairperson, Amery Lakes P&R District

Welcome...

Welcome to the annual Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District annual newsletter. It has been a year of accomplishments and new challenges and decisions. In all, it has been a good year and we continue to work diligently to protect our vital lake resources.

The Wisconsin DNR Lakes Protection Grant that was awarded to the City of Amery has been closed out. Several best management practices (BMP's) were designed, installed, and are functioning to reduce flow and nutrient loading into the three lakes. These include many rain barrels, rain gardens, some porous pavement and the sediment wetlands at Flagpole Park. In the end, nearly all funds were used from the grant and our District Board of Directors agreed it was a success. An overview of the various projects can be seen at the following website: <http://amerywisconsin.org/>; click on the clean lakes icon.

A Rapid Response AIS grant was awarded to the District three years ago after the discovery of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in Pike Lake. The grant was recently extended to June 2014. The extension was needed because a large amount of the grant had not been

utilized, largely because little herbicide treatment was needed. Also, all of the monitoring work has been donated, reducing fund use. However, the EWM has spread somewhat and herbicide treatment was used this past June to reduce the EWM to the point we can control it again by hand. Furthermore, an aquatic plant management plan will be created this winter and will be a large expenditure. The activities will use up most of the grant monies remaining.

The walleye stocking program will continue. Aaron Cole, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist, attended our recent quarterly meeting. He reviewed the most recent fish data and encouraged us to continue this stocking.

We encourage all to attend our meetings. Your input is very important to us. In the coming year we will be developing an aquatic plant management plan. We will also be identifying any areas of concern for lake protection not addressed in the most recent grants. If it is deemed necessary, we will consider applying for a subsequent lake protection grant to address these issues. In the meantime, please get out and enjoy our wonderful lakes.



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LAKE PROTECTION GRANT PROJECT cont'd from p. 1



North Twin Lake along Highway 46. Since project completion, the plume has occurred rarely, if at all. The Flagpole Park stormwater wetlands have greatly reduced the influx of undesired nutrients and pollutants into North Twin Lake and helped to maintain and even improve the water quality of the lake.

The grant also provided funds so the City and the Lake District could offer over 75 free rain barrels to City residents and Lake District residents in the Town of Lincoln. The goal of the rain barrel project was to reduce stormwater runoff that flows from building roofs, across lawns and driveways, and into the lakes. The barrels were

purchased from a nearby source, and the conversion of the barrels into rain barrels was done in part by volunteers from the Amery High School's Freshwater Ecology class and by City employees.

The grant also helped fund 8 rain gardens and 2 rock infiltration projects on Lake District resident properties, and provided technical assistance for two other rain garden projects. In addition, preliminary design work was complete for 13 more potential rain garden sites.

Another grant project was an experimental section of porous concrete in the alley behind the Village Pizzeria. That section of the alley contributed substantial

stormwater runoff into North Twin Lake. The porous concrete allows runoff to infiltrate through the concrete and into the ground rather than running into the lake.

The grant also provided the City and the Lake District funding for educational materials to illustrate how individuals can help to reduce stormwater runoff on their own and thus improve the water quality of our lakes.

More needs to be done to reduce stormwater runoff into our lakes, and the Lake District will be exploring the possibility of applying for another Lake Protection Grant with the City.



Rain Barrel



Porous Pavement



Rain Garden



Rock Infiltration Trench

4

The Lake Protection Grant funded the design and construction of the stormwater wetlands located in Flagpole Park

Amery Lakes Shoreline Inventory

by Steve Schieffer

As part of the recent Lake Protection Grant, the 2008-2010 Amery High School Freshwater Ecology classes evaluated and inventoried the shoreline of Amery lakes. This inventory assessed the amount of developed shoreline and the type of development. The following charts summarize the degree of shoreline development.

Lake	Natural	Developed
N Twin	34.7%	65.3%
Pike	74.5%	25.5%
S Twin	38.6%	61.4%

Lake	Natural	Lawn	Rip Rap	Hard Surface	Structure	Sand	Sea Wall
N Twin	34.7%	25.1%	34.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	2.1%
Pike	74.5%	13.4%	10.6%	1.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
S Twin	38.6%	30.6%	26.8%	0.6%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%

The shoreline is the point where the ordinary high water mark meets the land. Natural shoreline is shoreline that has not been changed through human activity. Developed shoreline has been changed and/or manipulated by human activity. Developed shoreline includes lawns, rip rap, roads, etc. During the inventory, the type and degree of development was assessed. As the data shows, North Twin and South Twin Lakes are far more developed than Pike Lake. The most common type of developed shoreline is rip rap on North Twin, lawn on Pike Lake, and rip rap on South Twin.

The type of development in the lakes' riparian zones was also analyzed. The riparian zone is the area from the ordinary high water mark inland 35 feet. The chart at right shows the type of development by percent of total riparian zone area. Again, natural implies that there is no change due to human activity and includes wetland areas.

Lake Riparian	Natural (Wetland)	Lawn	Road/Hard Surface	Sand	Structure
North Twin	37.0% (25.1%)	48.6%	13.8%	0.5%	0.14%
Pike Lake	89.4% (7.1%)	9.1%	1.4%	0.0%	0.05%
South Twin	41.4% (26.1%)	34.9%	20.8%	2.8%	0.07%

As the data shows, lawn comprises the majority of the developed riparian zone, with nearly half of the North Twin riparian zone in lawn and more than one third of the South Twin riparian zone in lawn. Pike Lake's developed riparian zone is also dominated by lawn, but less than ten percent of Pike Lake's riparian zone is developed.

Lawns can have a dramatic effect on the lake water quality. Lawns infiltrate less runoff water than other land covers such as forest or native grasslands. The increased runoff can lead to higher nutrient loads. If a resident is fertilizing the lawn, it can exacerbate the nutrient loading even more. It is frequently quoted that 1 pound of phosphorus can lead to the growth of 500 pounds of algae. A single resident fertilizing their lawn with fertilizer containing phosphorus can significantly increase algae

(cont'd p. 6)



(cont'd from page 5)

growth and decrease water clarity. It should be noted that use of fertilizer containing phosphorus within the watershed area is in violation of City and County ordinances and state regulations.

If you own property in the riparian zone, do not fertilize your lawn with fertilizer containing phosphorus. Also, consider installing a native riparian buffer to reduce runoff and nutrient loading. The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department can assist in design and implementation of practices such as native riparian buffers and/or rain gardens that can help reduce the impacts of development on the lake.

Sensitive habitat areas, where development is discouraged, were also identified as part of this project and are shown on the maps. These areas were identified based upon vegetation and/or important fish and wildlife habitat present.



Clean Boats/Clean Waters... Boat Landing Monitoring

Steve Scheiffer

We are in the second successive year of Clean Boats/Clean Waters boat landing monitoring to help reduce introduction of new aquatic invasive species (AIS). The crew of recent high school graduates has been sharing their time between the Pike Lake landing at Shoreview Supper Club and a landing on the Apple River Flowage. The Pike Lake landing is typically monitored on weekend afternoon/evenings. The landing was monitoring for four days during the long July 4th weekend. So far, the monitoring has gone well with many boaters and operators interviewed and boats inspected prior to launch.

Last year hundreds of boats were inspected and operators/lake users contacted. When a boater comes to the landing, they are asked about how recently they have been on a lake, the name and location of the previous lake, and if they know about AIS rules and recommendations. Various brochures and cards with information about AIS are offered to the boaters. The monitor

then asks permission to inspect their boat and records if they had to remove vegetation or not. The monitors offer to inspect the boat again when boaters leave the lake to make sure they don't take any materials from that lake to another lake. No names or registration numbers are recorded; the information from the interview is purely for data gathering purposes.

This program is well worth the cost. AIS are arguably the number one problem or potential problem facing lakes in Wisconsin. If we would have had this program in place, maybe Eurasian water-milfoil would not have made its way into Amery Lakes, so we are doing what we can to reduce this chance.

If you encounter a monitor at Pike Lake, or any landing, please be cooperative. They are doing their job of protecting the integrity of our lakes, and cooperation makes their job much easier.



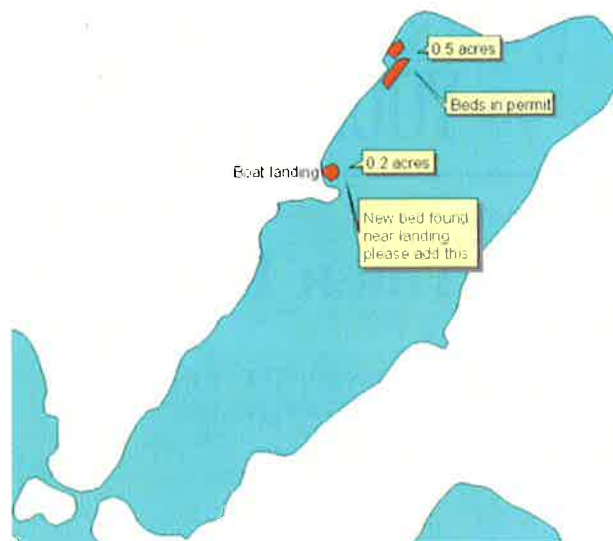
Pike Lake Eurasian Water-Milfoil Update

Steve Schieffer

Pike Lake saw a slight spreading of EWM this past year, and a June herbicide treatment was used to contain this spread. Herbicide had also been used to control EWM growth in the first year of control efforts. Since that time, hand pulling with divers limited growth and expansion. This year the area of EWM growth expanded a bit further into the bay and to in front of the boat landing. If this year's herbicide application is successful in reducing the area where EWM grows, hand pulling can be used for control again.

The areas treated with herbicide are shown at right. Although this total area may appear quite large, the areas outlined had only separated clumps of plants within the boundaries, rather than one large solid bed. We treated just the areas where EWM was growing in order to reduce damage to native plants.

We are not overly concerned with the limited expansion of EWM growth over the past year, as this is normal. The growth of EWM is being monitored on a continuous basis. When spreading occurs, the EWM plants will be controlled. Boaters should avoid the areas outlined and areas marked with white bottles, labeled "EWM." If boaters motor through these areas, they can increase spreading immensely.



Zebra Mussels – A Threat to Amery Lakes

Jeremy Williamson

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are small clams native to parts of Europe and Asia. They were introduced into the Great Lakes around 1985 and have spread throughout the country ever since. Zebra mussels are filter feeders, which means they feed on microscopic plants and other debris. Zebra mussel introduction may initially increase water clarity. However, because zebra mussels avoid eating blue-green algae, their presence can lead to intense filamentous algae and blue-green algae growth.

Although zebra mussels are not present in any of the Amery Lakes, there is an ever increasing threat as the list of infested lakes keeps growing and moving closer to us. We have seen zebra mussel infestation moving from sites like the St. Croix River and the Great Lakes to inland lakes and rivers. There are now two inland lakes in St. Croix County that are infested with zebra mussels a mere 18 miles from our lakes.

The Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District has recognized the threat that aquatic invasive species present and have students monitoring boat traffic at the boat landings. If there is anything that we have learned since Pike Lake was infested with Eurasian water milfoil, it's that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure.



What's happening on YOUR lake?

Protecting & Rehabilitating for

HEALTHIER LAKES

AMERY LAKES PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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Permit # 131

2013 Fisheries Management Activities in Pike Lake and North Twin Lake by Jon Bergquist



"...the current plan calls for stocking 3,000 walleyes in North Twin Lake and a similar number of walleye fingerlings in Pike Lake"

Under a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources, the Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District stocked 3,000 6 to 8 inch walleye fingerlings in both North Twin Lake and Pike Lake on September 21, 2012. The walleye fingerlings were purchased by the Amery Lakes District. They are expected to grow to legal size within 3 years. This is the sixth consecutive year the Lakes District purchased and stocked walleye into the two lakes. Anglers catching these sublegal walleyes are urged to handle and release the fish with great care in order to reduce mortality rates.

At the September 2012 Amery Lakes District annual meeting the board approved obtaining a stocking permit and funding to continue walleye stocking at the same levels for the fall of 2013. The large fingerlings are

purchased from a private fish hatchery here in Wisconsin.

The stocking is conducted under the 2010 Fisheries Management Plan for North and South Twin and Pike Lakes. The plan reviews the lakes' size and depth, basic water quality, fish species present, aquatic plant species present, the percent of developed versus undeveloped shoreline in each lake, recent stocking history, fishing activity on the lakes, and fisheries management activities for future consideration. A copy of the fisheries plan can be obtained by contacting Board Member Jon R. Bergquist at 715.268.5584.

Aaron Cole, the new DNR Fisheries Manager for Polk and Barron Counties spoke about fisheries management of our lakes at the June 2012 quarterly meeting. He indicated that DNR may be able to help with the stocking effort in the future.